

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A method in a computer system for enabling the development of installation software, the method comprising the steps of:

generating at least one question definition screen;

entering at least one question on the at least one generated question definition screen, the at least one question entered being designed to solicit information from a first ~~an end~~-user relating to a business of the first ~~end~~-user;

determining whether additional information relating to the business of the first ~~end~~-user is necessary to install a software package on a computer system of the first user, the software package comprising executable instructions to perform a plurality of tasks wherein at least one of the tasks requires the additional information;

if additional information is necessary, providing links to next questions to solicit additional information; and

if additional information is not necessary, compiling the at least one entered question into installation software designed to solicit information from the ~~end~~-first user relating to the business of the first ~~end~~-user such that the software package can be installed on ~~a~~ the system of the first ~~end~~-user.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, including encrypting the stored at least one entered question.

3. (original): The method of claim 1, including the step of:
saving the at least one question prior to a determination that additional information is not necessary.

4. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, including the step of:
providing links to help files, wherein such help files assist the ~~end~~-first user in providing at least one response to the at least one question, the at least one response relating to the business of the first ~~end~~-user.

5. (previously presented): The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing at least one default response for the at least one question, the at least one default corresponding to a generally accepted accounting principle.

6. (original): The method of claim 4, including the step of:
emailing a question to a help reference.

7. (currently amended): An apparatus for enabling the development of installation software wizards, comprising:
at least one memory;
at least one executable file stored in the at least one memory;
the at least one executable file comprising at least one instruction for providing at least one question definition screen;
a monitor;
at least one processing unit to execute the at least one instruction to display the at least one question definition screen to at least one intermediate user, the at least one processing unit includes at least one input so the at least one intermediate user can input at least ~~one~~ a first question, the first ~~at least one~~ question to solicit information from an end user relating to a business of the end user, such that a first end user can input business information specific to the first end user different than business information specific to a second end user; and
a compiler to write all the received information, wherein the received information is saved for the first end user.

8. (original): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the at least one memory, the at least one monitor, the at least one processing unit, the at least one input device, and compiler are coupled by at least one of a bus protocol, a wireless protocol, an intranet protocol, an extranet protocol, and html protocols.

9. (original): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the at least one memory comprises at least one help file.

10. (original): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the at least one processing unit includes a security module.

11. (currently amended): A computer program product comprising:
a computer usable medium having a computer readable code embodied therein for processing data to develop installation software wizards to assist ~~an end~~ users ~~user~~ in installing business related software on a computer system of ~~the~~ an end user, the computer usable medium comprising:

a question generation module configured to generate at least one question definition screen;

a receiving module configured to receive at least one question designed to solicit information from ~~an~~ a first end user relating to a business of the first end user;

a determining module configured to determine whether the business related software requires additional information for the business related software installation for the first end user;

a linking module configured to provide links to next questions if additional information is determined to be needed to install the business related software for the first end user;

a saving module configured to save the at least one received question; and

a compiling module configured to write the at least one received question saved by the saving module into the installation software wizard for the first end user.

12. (original): The computer program product of claim 11, comprising:
an encryption module configured to provided encryption.

13. (original): The computer program product of claim 11, comprising:
a help module configured to provide help relating to the at least one question.

14-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended): A method for generating a software installation application to install business related software where the business related software requires business operating information from an end user to be properly installed, the business related information being specific to a business of a specific end user and necessary to install the business related software package for the specific end user; the method comprising the steps performed on a computer of:

identifying a plurality of business operating information necessary to install the business related software;

generating at least one edit question screen;

the at least one edit question screen having a first input field for an intermediate user to enter at least one question designed to solicit business operating information from an end user;

the at least one edit question screen having a second input field for the intermediate user to insert jump information, the jump information linking to at least one next question designed to solicit additional business operating information from the end user based on a plurality of possible answers from the end user to the at least one question;

inputting the at least one question and the jump information;

determining whether additional business operating information is necessary to complete installation of the business related software;

if additional information is necessary, generating a next question edit screen and inputting another at least one question and jump information; and

if additional information is not necessary, compiling a business software installation application using generated questions and linked generated next questions to solicit business operating information from the end user.

22. (previously presented): The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of generating at least one help definition screen for each edit question screen.

23. (previously presented): The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of providing a default business operating information answer for each generated edit question screen.

24. (previously presented): The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of encrypting the inputted at least one question and jump information.

25. (previously presented): The method of claim 21 wherein the determining step includes comparing whether the inputted at least one question solicits all the plurality of business operating information necessary to install the business related software.

26. (previously presented): The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of saving the inputted at least one question and jump information prior to compiling the business software installation application.

27. (previously presented): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the acts of claim 1.

28. (previously presented): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the acts of claim 21.

29. (currently amended): A computer program product comprising:
a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing data to create a business software installation application, the computer usable medium comprising:

a business information solicitation module configured to generate and display an edit question screen, the edit question screen having a first input field for an intermediate user to enter a plurality of questions designed to solicit business operating information from an end user corresponding to a plurality of possible answers that are specific to the end user, and a second input field for the intermediate user to insert a plurality of jump information, the plurality of jump information corresponds to the plurality of possible answers and a business installation software application to a next question based on an answer to be provided by the end user;

an input module configured to accept input from the intermediate user regarding the plurality of questions, the plurality of possible answers, and the plurality of jump information; and

a compiling module configured to write the plurality of questions, the plurality of possible answers, and the plurality of jump information into the business software installation application.

30. (previously presented): The computer program product of claim 29, further comprising a processor identification module configured to obtain computer system information about the system on which the business software package is being installed.

31. (previously presented): The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the computer information system information includes information necessary to load the computer program.

32. (currently amended): A computer program product:
a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing data to install a business software application, the computer usable medium comprising
an identifying module configured to identify at least one software package to be installed;
a displaying module configured to display at least one question inputted by an intermediate user to solicit business operating information from ~~at least one~~ a first end user needed to install the business software application on a system of the first end user;
an input module configured to receive the business operating information solicited by the displaying module; and
a jump module configured to jump to a next question to solicit additional business operating information from the ~~at least one~~ first end user needed to install the business software application ~~operating information~~, the jump module jumps to the next question based on jump information provided by the intermediate user and business operating information from the first ~~at least one~~ end user; and

a system configuration module configured to install the business software application once necessary business operating information is received.